



PRESS ALERT

California Postsecondary Education Commission
1303 J Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814-2938
(916) 445-1000

UC and CSU Agree to Provide Data To State Higher Education Advisory Panel

Sacramento, April 6, 2005 – The University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) have agreed to provide the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) with data that will allow it to evaluate student behavior during the postsecondary education experience. Said CPEC Board Chair Howard Welinsky, “We are gratified that UC and CSU have joined the Community Colleges and agreed to provide these critical data. With them, policy makers and the public will have a better understanding of how well students are progressing through California’s public higher education systems.”

CPEC Executive Director Murray J. Haberman observed, “Instead of snapshots of performance, we can begin to understand what happens to individual students as they move through the system. We intend to focus our initial studies on better understanding the dynamics of concurrent enrollment, transfer, and time to degree. By fully encrypting all data, CPEC will be able to look at individual records and understand what is happening to actual students without using social security numbers or otherwise compromising personal privacy.”

The decision by UC and CSU to provide the data brings to an end a protracted discussion regarding whether the two senior systems were allowed to share information so that CPEC, in response to a legislative directive, could “develop and maintain a data-collection system capable of documenting the performance of postsecondary education institutions in meeting the post high school education and training needs of California’s diverse population.”

Said Chair Welinsky, “The four year public segments can be assured that CPEC will consult closely with them on the use of these data and should know that the goal of the Commission is to provide statewide data that can be used by everyone to understand and improve the delivery of postsecondary education in California.”

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov.